

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-3

NEW YORK TIMES
30 MARCH 1983

Lawyers for Bulgarian Present New Evidence

Special to The New York Times

ROME, March 29 — The lawyers for a Bulgarian imprisoned here displayed documents today that they said proved he was falsely accused of complicity in the 1981 shooting of Pope John Paul II.

The lawyers, Giuseppe Consolo and Dolfo Larussa, said at a news conference at the Bulgarian Embassy that the evidence destroyed the case against Sergei I. Antonov, a Bulgarian airline representative. Mr. Antonov has been held since Nov. 25 on suspicion of complicity in the attack on the Pope, reportedly on the basis of statements made by Mehmet Agca, the Turkish gunman serving a life sentence for the shooting.

The lawyers said they could prove that Mr. Agca was lying when he told the investigating magistrate, Ilario Martella, that he had met Mrs. Antonov at the Antonov apartment during a visit on May 10, 1981, or five days before the attack on the Pope.

Reporters were shown photocopies of a register and bill from a motel in Nova Gradiska, Yugoslavia, indicating that she spent the night of May 8 to 9 there.

Mr. Consolo, who said she had been on her way from Italy to Bulgaria by car, said the documents would be presented to Judge Martella on Wednesday in a new move to obtain Mr. Antonov's release on the ground of lack of evidence. Previous moves have failed.

To explain why Mrs. Antonov left Rome on May 8, Mr. Consolo presented her Italian residence permit, which expired May 9.